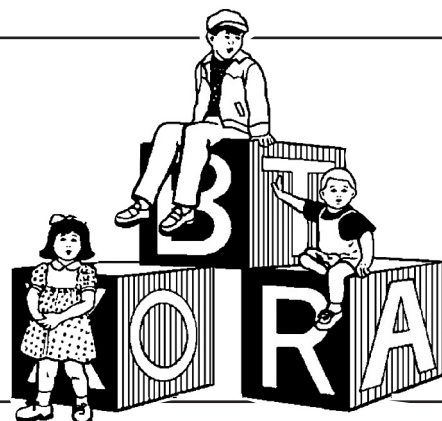


# Building Blocks to Safety

*A newsletter for prevention  
of childhood injuries*



North Dakota Department of Health

Summer 2004

Division of Injury Prevention and Control

## Drowning Prevention Campaign

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is conducting a drowning prevention campaign as part of an intensified initiative to prevent the drowning of 250 children younger than 5 annually in swimming pools. Among unintentional injuries, drowning has been the second leading cause of death to children younger than 5, after motor vehicle incidents. In 2002, an estimated 1,600 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries. Many of these deaths and injuries occur in residential pools.

One of the most tragic aspects of drowning deaths is that they are preventable, but there is no foolproof method of prevention. CPSC recommends using layers of protection, including constant supervision of young children; placing barriers such as a fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate around your pool to prevent access; and being prepared in case of an emergency.

Close supervision of young children is vital for families with a home pool – and not just when outside using the pool. A common scenario is that young children leave the house without a parent or caregiver realizing it. Children are drawn to water without knowing the terrible danger pools can pose. Also, just because children know how to swim doesn't mean they are safe. All children should be supervised every second while in and around the pool.

The CPSC offers these additional tips to prevent drowning:

- Fences and walls should be at least 4 feet high and installed completely around the pool. Fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The latch should be out of a small child's reach. Keep furniture that could be used for climbing into the pool area away from fences.
- If your house forms one side of the barrier to the pool, then doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce a sound when a door is opened unexpectedly.
- A power safety cover -- a motor-powered barrier that can be placed over the water area -- can be used when the pool is not in use.
- Keep rescue equipment by the pool and be sure a phone is poolside with emergency numbers posted. Knowing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can be a lifesaver.
- Don't leave pool toys and floats in the pool or pool area that may attract young children to the water.
- For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.
- If a child is missing, always look in the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Pool alarms can be used as an added precaution. Look for alarms that meet the requirements of the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standard. The commission advises that

Continued on next page

consumers use remote alarm receivers so the alarm can be heard inside the house or in other places away from the pool area.

- To prevent body entrapment and hair entrapment/entanglement, have a qualified pool professional inspect the drain suction fittings and covers on your pool and spa to make sure that they are the proper size, are properly attached, and meet current safety standards. If your pool or spa has a single drain outlet, consider installing a safety vacuum release system that breaks the vacuum to avoid potential entrapment conditions.

## Batmobiles Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Mattel Inc. are recalling 314,000 Batman Batmobile

toy vehicles. The rear tail wings on the Batmobile are made of rigid plastic and come to a point, posing a potential puncture or laceration hazard to children.

The recalled Batmobile is a 20-inch, blue-and-gray plastic vehicle with a detachable motorcycle. Model number B4944 is written on the bottom of the toy vehicle. The toy was sold at mass merchants and toy stores nationwide from June 2003 through February 2004.

The toys should be removed from play immediately. Contact Mattel at 888.271.9891 about receiving free replacement wings. Mattel is providing free repair kits containing two replacement wings without pointed ends that snap onto the toy vehicle.

## Ashley Bunk Beds Recalled

CPSC and Ashley Furniture Industries are recalling 23,000 bunk beds. Gaps between parts of the bunk bed violate federal safety standards and can be



entrapment or strangulation hazards to children. The bunk beds included in the recall are as follows:

<u>Group name</u>	<u>Model #s</u>
Trails End	B383-58T, B383-57T
Cottage Retreat	B213-58
Stages	B233-58

The bunk beds were sold at furniture stores nationwide from 2000 to 2003.

Consumers need to stop using the recalled bunk beds and get a free repair kit from the retailer to cover and close up the entrapment gaps. Consumers should contact Ashley Furniture Industries at 800.999.2936 for the free repair kit.

## Baby Trend Strollers Recalled

The CPSC and Baby Trend Inc. are recalling 11,000 Passport strollers. The strollers have a fold joint that can collapse unexpectedly, causing the babies to fall.

The strollers have the word Passport written on both sides of the canopy. Only Passport strollers with model number 1514, SKN number 190554 and



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Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)  
[www.health.state.nd.us](http://www.health.state.nd.us)

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manufacturing dates between July 10, 2003, and Nov. 26, 2003, are recalled. This information is printed on the lower frame of the stroller behind the seat.

Passport strollers were sold at Babies "R" Us nationwide from July 2003 through February 2004. Consumers should stop using the stroller and contact Baby Trend toll-free at 800.238.7363.

## Board Books Recalled

CPSC and DK Publishing are announcing recalls on 214,000 children's board books. The books have a sound maker mounted inside the plastic covering on the last page that poses a choking hazard to children if it is removed.

The heavy cardboard books were sold under many different titles that feature photos of the title themes:

- \* Dinosaurs, Emergency! \* Kitty's Adventure
- \* On the Road \* Puppy's Busy Day
- \* Tractors \* Trains and Trucks

All books have a raised sound button in the lower right corner, which features a sound relevant to the title. The "DK" logo is in the lower left corner of the books.

Bookstores, gift stores, newsstands, discount department stores and warehouse clubs nationwide sold the books from March 2001 through April 2004. Consumers should take these books away from young children and contact DK Publishing at 800.505.4726 to receive a refund or a replacement book of equal value.

## Radio-Control Toy Trucks Recalled

CPSC and Nikko America are recalling 290,000 radio-control trucks. A problem with the circuit board causes the toy truck to overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard.

The toy trucks were manufactured from April 2003 through January 2004. The trucks are 1/10 scale models of the Chevy Avalanche, Jeep Wrangler, Hummer Wagon and Ford F150. Major toy and discount department stores nationwide sold the toy trucks from July 2003 through February 2004.



Consumers should stop using the toy trucks and contact Nikko America at 866.232.6013 for instructions on returning the product for a free circuit board replacement.

## Ride-On Toys Recalled

CPSC and Tek Nek Toys International are recalling about 70,000 ride-on toy trucks for repair. The screw and nut assembly attaching the steering wheel can come loose, posing a choking hazard to young children. Tek Nek Toys has received six reports of the screw and nut coming loose, including the death of a child who inhaled a screw.



The ride-on toys were sold under five model names including:

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Butterfly Girl          | Fire Rescue |
| Mermaid                 | Police Car  |
| Tonka Construction Crew |             |

The toys can be used as a ride-on toy or a push-walker toy with the handle on the back of the seat rest. On the dash of the ride-on toys are buttons that produce sounds when activated.

Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Kmart, Meijer and Shopko sold the toys nationwide from December 2002 through March 2004. Consumers should stop using the toys and contact Tek Nek Toys at 888.661.0222 for free replacement parts.

# TV/VCR Cart Recalled

CPSC and Sauder Woodworking Co. are recalling about 600,000 TV/VCR carts. The carts can tip over and injure or kill children and adults when the cart and the television fall. Sauder has received 13 reports of the carts tipping over. One report was of the death of a 19-month-old girl who suffered a fractured skull when the cart and television fell on her. Another report involved a skull fracture to a child who recovered, and three reports involved bumps and bruises.

The carts were sold in kits to be assembled by consumers. The models are light-oak colored or a dark-colored cherry finish. The cart is about 29.5



inches wide, 18 inches deep and 27 inches high. The cart has four removable casters attached to each bottom corner.

Department, discount and home electronic stores nationwide sold the carts from January 1993 through December 1999. Consumers immediately should stop using the carts and do the following:

- Remove the television and all the contents from these carts.
- Turn the cart over and remove the four casters from the bottom of the cart. This will improve the stability of the carts.
- Contact Sauder Woodworking Co. to receive a free repair kit that will further reduce the potential for the cart and television to tip. Do not use the cart until the repair kit has been installed. This cart is intended to hold a TV that weighs 95 pounds or less.

For more information and to order the free repair kit, consumers should call Sauder at 888.800.4590.

# Children's Rings Recalled

The CPSC and Brand Imports LLC are recalling 1 million children's rings. The rings contain high levels of lead,



posing a risk of lead poisoning to young children.

The metal rings are silver in color with painted shapes including hearts and stars. Vending machines in malls, discount, department and grocery stores sold the rings nationwide from December 2002 through August 2003.

Consumers should throw the ring away or contact the company at 800.967.3048 for more information.

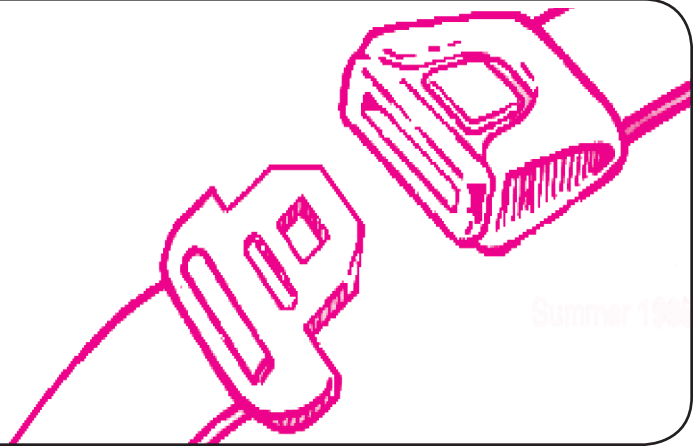
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# The Buckle Update



## Child Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury Facts

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children. Child safety seats and safety belts, when installed and used correctly, can prevent injuries and save lives. Unrestrained children are more likely to be injured, suffer severe injuries and die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are restrained.

### Consider these national facts:

- In 2001, 1,579 child occupants ages 14 and younger died in motor vehicle crashes.
- In 2002, an estimated 227,000 children ages 14 and younger were injured as occupants in motor vehicle-related crashes.
- As of Jan. 1, 2004, 141 children have been killed by passenger air bags this year. About 92 percent of these deaths were among children either unrestrained or improperly restrained at the time of the crash, including 23 infants in rear-facing child safety seats in front of a passenger air bag.

### When and where do motor vehicle deaths and injuries occur?

- Seventy-five percent of motor vehicle crashes occur within 25 miles of home. In addition, 60 percent of crashes occur on roads with posted speed limits of 40 mph or less.
- In 2002, 22 percent of all traffic deaths among children ages 14 and younger involved alcohol. Of the children killed in alcohol-related crashes, more than half were passengers in vehicles with drunk drivers.

### Prevention tips:

- Child safety seats are extremely effective when correctly used, reducing the risk of death by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for children ages 1 to 4.
- The back seat is the safest place for children to ride. It is estimated that children ages 12 and younger are 36 percent less likely to die in a crash if seated in the rear of a passenger vehicle than if seated in the front seat.
- Any child safety seat must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

(Source: National SAFE KIDS Campaign)

## Strengthening Child Passenger Safety Laws

All 50 states have child passenger safety (car seat) laws. However, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), many of these laws have significant gaps and exemptions in coverage that reduce the protection that all children need in motor vehicles.

### Following is NHTSA's lists of components that make up a strong child passenger safety law.

- The law should cover all occupants up to age 16 in all seating positions.
- The law should be primary enforcement, meaning law enforcement officers can stop a vehicle and issue a citation by observing

unrestrained children. Violators of the law should receive a monetary fine and (optional) point assessment.

- The law should explicitly require a child to be in an age- and size-appropriate restraint.
- All vehicles equipped with safety belts should be included in the law.
- The driver should be assigned responsibility for ensuring restraint use – regardless of his or her relationship to the child.
- The law should not have exemptions that allow children to ride in seating areas that are not equipped with seat belts, such as the cargo area of pickup trucks.

A review of North Dakota's child passenger safety law shows the state is doing well in several areas but has gaps and loopholes allowing some

children to ride without optimal protection. On the positive side, North Dakota's law covers children through age 17 in all seating positions, is a primary enforcement law, includes all vehicles equipped with seat belts when manufactured, assigns responsibility to the driver and assesses one point against the driver's license. On the negative side, North Dakota's law does not have a monetary penalty, allows seat belt use for children older than 3, does not prohibit children from riding in the cargo area of pickup trucks and allows an exemption if there are more children in one family than seat belts.

According to NHTSA, North Dakota could improve its law by adding a monetary penalty, requiring age- and size-appropriate restraints for children older than 3 and removing exemptions that allow some children to ride unrestrained.

## Save the Date

### North Dakota Conference on Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety

The North Dakota Conference on Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety is scheduled for Nov. 16 and 17, 2004, at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck. The theme of the conference is "Preventing Injuries Through Advocacy."

Featured/invited speakers include:

- Nancy Amidei is from the University of Washington, where she coordinates a Civic Engagement Project. Amidei — who is a writer, teacher and advocate — has been involved in social policy from both inside and outside government. She has authored numerous publications, including "So You Want To Make A Difference," a guide to policy advocacy.
- Jack Walsh is the executive director of the Danny Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting babies from preventable injuries and deaths associated with unsafe cribs, other children's products and sleep environments. The foundation was established

following the entanglement of 23-month-old Danny

Lineweaver on the corner post extension of his crib. Danny suffered permanent brain damage and incapacitation from the entanglement. He died at age 11 after nine years of difficult therapy.

Conference participants will hear from several North Dakota speakers who have an injury prevention message to share. Ann Buchanan from Fargo will speak about the death of her son from alcohol poisoning during "Power Hour." Cressy Liljenquist from Valley City became an advocate for mental health following the death of her husband from suicide.

Other topics include playground safety, product safety and the injury prevention curriculum.

The conference provides participants with current information about injuries nationally and in North Dakota and offers promising practices for prevention.

